

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167927

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM MCNEIL

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SHUM, OAS, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE DISCUSSIONS WITH IAHR

REF: CASTRO-MCNEIL TELECON JUNE 30

1. WE UNDERSTAND THERE WERE TWO MEETINGS BETWEEN MONTES AND THE IAHR. AT THE FIRST, FORMAL MEETING MONTES INVITED THE COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ASPECTS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. THIS INVITATION WAS QUITE VAGUE. IN RESPONSE, THE COMMISSION NOTED THAT IT HAS A SET OF INTERNAL RULES IT FOLLOWS WHICH COVER THE VARIOUS FACETS OF SITUATION THEY ALWAYS LOOK INTO SUCH AS VISITS TO DETENTION CENTERS. ARGENTINES MADE NO RESPONSE.

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2. AT A SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL MEETING THE IAHR SPECIFICALLY ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT DETENTION CENTERS. THE ARGENTINE RESPONSE WAS NEGATIVE. (OUR SOURCE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN CIVIL AND MILITARY DETENTION CENTERS.) THE COMMISSION THEN SENT THE ARGENTINES A NOTE ASKING ARGENTINA TO CLARIFY THE TERMS OF THEIR INVITATION IN LIGHT OF THE COMMISSION'S NORMAL PRO-

CEDURES PER THE LIST OF QUESTIONS. THERE HAS BEEN NO REPLY
AS OF LAST NIGHT.

3. PRESUMABLY THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SOME SIDE CONVERSA-
TIONS OF WHICH WE ARE NOT PRESENTLY AWARE AS BOTH THE
ARGENTINE EMBASSY AND THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THEIR
DELEGATION STATE THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING, ALTHOUGH
THIS MAY REFER ONLY TO THE FACT THEY ARE STILL STUDYING A
REPLY TO THE IAHRC NOTE.

4. THE FACT WE HAVE THE INFORMATION IN PARAS 1 AND 2
SHOULD NOT BE REVEALED TO THE ARGENTINES, UNLESS
SIMILAR INFO RECEIVED FROM ARGENTINE SOURCES AS UELL.

5. FOR THE RECORD, AS WE AGREED ON THE PHONE, YOU SHOULD
MAKE CLEAR, IF NECESSARY, THAT THE QUESTION OF THE CON-
DITIONS OF THE VISIT IS A MATTER FOR THE ARGENTINES AND
THE IAHRC TO RESOLVE AMONG THEMSELVES. WE OBVIOUSLY HOPE
THEY CAN REACH AGREEMENT, BUT IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR
US TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. VANCE

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